Bob (1966, Pembroke Academy, NH) and Bren (1965, Concord, NH) Chickering (My Grandparents)

#1

* “I honestly felt like they didn’t really care about us personally, and that they we’re there to just move us along.” (Bob)
* Felt that Concord High approached school as if it was an opportunity for all of their students and they wanted to help students get the most out of that opportunity. Also felt that Concord High had very high standards for their students. She said the school mentality was “we’re here to help you.” (Bren)

#2

* She said she was always expected to do her very best. “School was not a place to fool around.” (Bren)
* Was expected to go to college and was expected to get good enough grades to get into college. “They made me take college prep classes because I was smart.” (Bob)

#3

* When it came to my grandmother’s experiences, businesses did not care about college experience. She said they wanted to make sure she had graduated high school and they really like her two years of business prep in high school (advanced accounting). (Bren)

#4

* Wanted to get out of high school so he could do something interesting like mechanics. (Bob)
* Didn’t enjoy school but said she always wanted to do her best. She transferred out of college prep into business prep before her junior year. Her main goal was to get a good paying and enjoyable job out of high school.

#5

* All classes were the same every day, sit in your seat and take notes while the teacher lectured the whole time. All assessment was either a test or an essay. (Both)

#6

* Ms. Patterson, 10th grade French. Was young, one of her first years as a teacher, and was always there to give extra help (usually 2 or 3 nights a week). (Bren)
* Mr. Davis, 10th, 11th, & 12th history classes. Said he knew history very well and was very passionate about it, he was able to make history come alive with his energy. (Bob)

#7

* Lower middle, no diversity. (Bob)
* Middle class with a large amount of wealthy students as well, no diversity. (Bren)
* “If you talked or chewed gum in class you were going to the principals office.” (Bren)

Francis Chickering, 1989, Blue Mountain VT, My Dad

#1

* Felt the school really pushed college on all their students. “I got crap from all my teachers my entire senior year because I wasn’t going to college.” At graduation a teacher said to him “I hope you do more with your life than I think you’re going to.” That being because my dad aspired to be a carpenter which I think sums up the schools philosophy nicely.

#2

* They expected him to get good grades and wanted him to work hard, but at the same time they knew he hated school. They mostly cared about what showed up on the report card, as long as it was all A’s and B’s they were happy. They made sure my dad knew they would find a way to pay for him to go to college if that’s what he wanted to do, but he didn’t.

#3

* “The business world expected you to have a degree for everything.”

#4

* “I wanted to get though with as little effort as possible and to get on to real life.” “High school was easy enough I could put in no effort and get a C, the only reason I put in any effort at all was because my parents expected atleast a B. I usually got A’s in my history classes though because I actually found those enjoyable.”

#5

* They did a lot of lecture and take notes style classes. He had one class though that did a mock town where everyone in had their own job and played their own role which he really enjoyed.

#7

* Farming & logging community, working class, no diversity.